



Marc Orlando
Director
Department of Growth Management
Phone: 843-706-4510
www.townofbluffton.sc.gov

April 7, 2010

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Bluffton Selected for EPA Sustainable Communities Building Blocks Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Monday named the Town of Bluffton as one of 32 communities across 26 states to be initial participants in the Sustainable Communities Building Blocks program. Town Staff and Stakeholders will receive technical assistance during a day-long session that will help them achieve their sustainable planning goals as part of the Unified Development Ordinance Overhaul Project. Sustainable planning helps safeguard the environment and spur economic development while also improving citizens' health.

EPA selected the 32 communities from 354 applicants through a competitive process in consultation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). During a day-long session with EPA-funded, private-sector experts, Town Staff and Stakeholders will focus on a specific sustainability tool, the Growth Framework Map, developed with sustainability and watershed principles in mind as part of the Unified Development Ordinance Overhaul Project. They will also learn about additional environmentally responsible, economically healthy development techniques and general sustainable community strategies which will be shared during a public meeting.

"We are thrilled that the EPA recognizes this unique opportunity to collaborate with the Town during our Unified Development Ordinance Overhaul Project," said Marc Orlando, Director of the Department of Growth Management.

Sustainable Communities Building Blocks is coordinated through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, a joint effort between EPA, HUD, and DOT to coordinate federal actions on housing, transportation, and environmental protection. According to the EPA, this interagency collaboration achieves efficient federal investments in infrastructure development, facilities, and services that meet multiple economic, environmental, and community objectives.

To learn more, please contact Kim Jones with the Department of Growth Management at (843) 706-4510, email kjones@townofbluffton.com, or visit our office at 20 Bridge Street.

###